

Energy starts with the sun!

## ENERGY CONSERVATION

*"Shut that door and stop wasting energy! We can't afford to heat the whole neighborhood!"*

*As a child growing up in a large, drafty, 3 story home in St. Louis I couldn't get through the door fast enough to satisfy my parents. "Wasting energy" quickly came to mean the same as "wasting money." Now, I catch myself saying the same things to my son, whether it's the middle of winter or a hot humid summer day.*

*Last year, in particular, many of us felt the high cost of heating our homes through the unusually long cold winter. Following some of the tips below might help you to conserve energy in your home, not only for the sake of your pocketbook, but for the sake of conserving our finite fossil fuels.*

### Simple Tips to Conserve Energy

- Open curtains during the day to use solar radiation. Close them at night.
- Weatherize drafty windows and around utility outlets.
- Set furnace 10-15 degrees cooler while sleeping.
- Choose LED lights for your holiday decorations.

We may be affected financially, but what price do animals pay during those tough spells? Some creatures die with the advent of winter yet nature has seven other strategies to cope with the cold and conserve energy - often called the great "ates." I'll admit there are a few of these I have been following, maybe you have too!

1. Migrate – moving to a warmer climate
2. Hibernate – slowing down and sleeping
3. Generate – creating more heat by eating more food
4. Insulate –growing thicker fur and an extra layer of fat
5. Excavate – burrowing in a cavity (tree/ground/rocks)
6. Congregate - gather close together to conserve heat
7. Propagate – producing offspring (eggs) that will survive the winter
8. Terminate – die, e.g. adult insects and annual plants

### Energy Loss: Bats in the winter

According to Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) research, "A hibernating bat can survive on only a few grams of stored fat during its 5 to 6 month hibernation period. Bats usually lose one-fourth to one-half of their body weight during hibernation. Each time a bat is awakened, it may lose up to two months of stored fat reserves. Bats that are repeatedly disturbed are forced to emerge early from their roosts. If this emergence occurs before the insects have returned, the bats starve."

White Nose Syndrome (caused by a fungus, *Psedogymnoascus destructans*, very contagious to bats) is also a reason for hibernating bats to awaken and leave their cave, even during the day when the temperature is below freezing.

How can you help?

#### •Do not handle any bats!

- Stay out of bat caves between mid-October through mid-April.
- Report to MDC recently dead bats with a fuzzy white face and bats flying during daylight in winter.

Photo by Shelly Colatskie



**Text 'nature' to 91212 to receive text reminders  
on your cell phone about events at the  
Cape Nature Center.**

Check out our QR code!



# Tadpoles

(Shared nature experiences for 0-2 year olds and an attending adult.)



## December

**Saturday, December 20-9 or 10 AM**

### Gifts for the Birds

Red, blue, gray, and brown birds puff up as the temperatures fall down. All the little birds flock to your backyard in search of food. Learn more about them and give the birds a winter gift by making them a special treat. **Ages 0-2. Registration begins December 2.**

## January

**Saturday, January 31-9 or 10 AM**

### Winter Wonders

Ever wonder what could be special about winter? The cold and snow can be nice you know! It even helps some animals! We will explore all the wonderful mysteries of winter in nature through stories and activities as we stay warm inside. **Ages 0-2. Registration begins January 2.**

## February

**Saturday, February 28-9 or 10 AM**

### Something's Skunky

What's black and white and smells all over? Skunks! These well-known furry mammals have more to say than just spray. Bring your little one in to hear all about skunks through a puppet show and activities. **Ages 0-2. Registration begins February 3.**

## Kids' Club Program Information

## December

**Saturday, December 20**

**1-4 PM**

### Join us at Family Craft Day

Snappers will take a break this month. Come try your hand at fun holiday crafts during our Family Craft Day. **Ages 7-11. No registration required.**



## January

**Saturday, January 10**

**10-11:30 AM**

### Got Worms?

If you don't have worms, you really should consider it. Worms are excellent composters and are great to have around. Make and take home a worm composting bin to begin transforming table scraps into nutrient-rich soil. **Ages 7-11. Registration begins January 2.**

## February

**Saturday, February 7 and 14**

### Eagle Days or Maple Sugaring!

Snappers will take a break this month. Join us at our Eagle Days event on February 7th or our Maple Sugaring event on the 14th. Bring the whole family!

## March

**Saturday, March 7**

**10-11:30 AM**

### Orienteering: Quest for Leprechaun Gold

Those tricky leprechauns have hidden their gold near the nature center once again! However, you just may find it with some handy compass skills, and a little luck. **Ages 7-11. Early registration begins February 17.**

# Mudpuppies

(45-minute indoor/outdoor programs for 3-6 year olds and an attending adult.)



## December

**Saturday, December 13-9:30 AM or 11 AM**

**Tuesday, December 16-9 AM or 10:30 AM**

### Have a Green Holiday

Celebrate the holidays while being kind to the environment. Put the words, "reduce, reuse, and recycle" to use as we make some eco-friendly gifts. **Ages 3-6. Registration begins December 2.**

## January

**Saturday, January 10-9:30 AM or 11 AM**

**Tuesday, January 13-9 AM or 10:30 AM**

### Regal Eagles

Eagles astound us with their size, flying ability, and hunting prowess. Come learn about these regal birds and how they live. **Ages 3-6. Registration begins January 2.**

## February

**Saturday, February 14-Please bring your family to the Maple Sugaring Event**

**Tuesday, February 17-9 AM or 10:30 AM**

### Sugar Snow

Why is a snowfall in February called a "sugar snow?" Because it's maple sugaring season! Learn what makes the sap flow in a tree and how we can use some of that sap to make tasty treats. **Ages 3-6. Registration begins February 3.**

## March

**Saturday, March 7-9:30 AM or 11 AM**

**Tuesday, March 10-9 AM or 10:30 AM**

### Baby Animals

Spring is the season for baby animals. Come learn about the wee ones born this time of year and what you should do if you encounter them. **Ages 3-6. Early registration begins February 17.**

Match the object below with the energy it needs.



# Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center

2289 County Park Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/297](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/297)

## DECEMBER

### TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 573-290-5218 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

### Nature Art: Nature's Decor

December 13 • Saturday • 9 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM or 3 PM

*Registration begins December 2 (ages 16+)*

Deck the halls with boughs of holly... the holidays are just around the corner and we're in the mood to decorate! We'll use nature's resources to create wonderful winter wreaths, swags, and garlands. You provide a grapevine wreath (you choose the size and shape you want) and we'll provide everything else to do your decorating.

### Nature Center at Night: Winter Survival Puppet Show

December 18 • Thursday • 5–8 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Winter is a hard time for animals so where do they go and what can they do? Our furry, scaly, and feathered puppets will tell you all about their winter-time survival tactics. Shows start at 5:15 PM and 6:30 PM. Youth and adult groups welcome.

### Owl Prowl

December 19 • Friday • 6–9 PM

*Registration begins December 2 (ages 12+)*

Want to know whooo's calling at night? Take a walk on the dark side to learn more about Missouri's resident owls and visit a local conservation area to practice calling in these amazing nocturnal creatures. Adult supervision is required for ages 12-18.

### Family Craft Fun

December 20 • Saturday • 1–4 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Come bring your youngsters to make a few nature related crafts. We'll bring the supplies, you bring the enthusiasm!

### Art Gallery-December

Drop by the nature center's auditorium gallery during December to admire artwork submitted by the contestants of the Junior Duck Stamp Contest. This annual contest highlights the talents of many young artists.

### How can I help wild animals on cold winter days?

Surviving the winter takes a lot of energy for most of Missouri's wildlife. There are things we can do to help these animals conserve some of this energy. We can give them a hand by providing them with a shelter, food, and water. Making a shelter is as easy as building a brush pile. Start out with some larger limbs and branches and then fill in the gaps with smaller twigs and dried leaves and grasses. If you have fallen trees on your property, try leaving them in place for the winter or putting your Christmas tree outside once the holidays are over. These shelters provide excellent cover for ground-foraging birds, rabbits, chipmunks, hibernating reptiles, amphibians, and insects. Feeding winter songbirds high-fat and protein foods like suet and sunflower seeds gives them the energy they need to fight the winter chill. Water can be tough to come by on a cold, winter day. By providing wildlife with unfrozen water on a daily basis you can save that animal from expending unnecessary energy on searching for a water source. You can purchase a heater for your bird bath or backyard pond or just change the water frequently to keep it from freezing.

*-Angela Pierce*

*Missourians care about conserving forests, fish and wildlife.*

## Thank You

*for donations of Time, Material and Service*

**Jeanne Caola-Photos**

**Carolyn Neal-Craft Supplies**

**Tim Pafford-Print**

**Delbert Phelps-Event Pictures**

**Hill & Dale Garden Club-Monitory**

*Those purchasing paving stones for the Conservation Nature Center walkway:*

**Marilyn Juhlin**

*In Honor of*

**Steven Juhlin**

### Christmas Bird Count mid-December – early January

Christmas Bird Counts are held throughout the Americas this winter. There are various opportunities in this region for you to assist with these bird research counts. No experience required.

For details and regional locations/dates, check under "listings" at [www.mobirds.org](http://www.mobirds.org) or e-mail [sebirding@yahoo.com](mailto:sebirding@yahoo.com).

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center is located in North Cape Girardeau County Park off Kingshighway just east of Interstate 55 at exit 99.

The Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center is operated through hunting and fishing license revenues and through the 1/8% "Design for Conservation" sales tax. There is no admission charge.

### BUILDING HOURS

Tuesday–Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM

Closed Sundays, Mondays, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, day after Thanksgiving, and Christmas

### AREA HOURS

Daily: Sunrise–10 PM in accordance with the Cape Girardeau County Park

### RULES AND REGULATIONS

Nature center grounds and trails are closed to pets, horses, hunting, collecting, littering, fires, and alcoholic beverages.

The trails are also closed to bicycles, jogging, in-line skates, skateboards, scooters, and motorized vehicles.

Phone: 573/290-5218

Fax: 573/290-5566

## Holiday Closings

The nature center will be closed  
Thursday, December 25 and  
Thursday, January 1.

The White Oak Trace trail will be open.

### Art Gallery-December

Visit the nature center lobby in December to view drawings inspired by the extinct birds of Missouri, created by daughter and father duo, Cheyenne and A. J. Hendershott.



# Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center

2289 County Park Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/297](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/297)

## JANUARY

### TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 573-290-5218 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

### Basic Fly Tying

January 2 • Friday • 6-9 PM and  
January 8 • Thursday • 6-9 PM  
*Early registration begins December 16 (ages 16+)*

Are you a fly fisherman? If so, start the year learning some new skills during this two-evening class. Our basic fly tying class will review basic insect life cycles, fly tying tools, and material used for creating your own flies. All tools and materials will be provided. Dress for the weather.

### Dutch Oven Cooking

January 3 • Saturday • 9:30 AM-NOON  
*Early registration begins December 16 (ages 12+)*

Cold weather and warm food go hand in hand. Try your hand at making something hot to eat in the Dutch ovens as we keep ourselves warm by the fire. This beginner's course is designed to cover some basic techniques for successful outdoor cooking using cast iron.

### Candle Making

January 3 • Saturday • 1-2:30 PM  
*Registration begins December 16 (ages 12+)*  
Learn how to use your resources just like the pioneers! Join us as we try our hand at making old-fashioned dip candles using nature-inspired materials. Participants will take home their very own homemade candles.

### Feeding Frenzy

January 8 • Thursday • 1-2:30 PM  
*No registration required (all ages)*  
Ever wonder what it takes to keep all of the nature center reptiles, amphibians, and fish happy? Thanks to some amazing animal care volunteers, they are fed a delicious smorgasbord of crickets, worms, minnows, and more! Drop by to visit with the volunteers and staff as they feed the hungry critters. Youth and adult groups welcome.

### Art Gallery-January

Stop by our lobby in January to view origami plants and animals by Nastassia Todd.

### Nature Center at Night: Mountain Lion Mysteries

January 8 • Thursday • 5-8 PM  
*No registration required (all ages)*  
Mountain lions are here, or are they? There may be more sightings of these elusive cats than big foot! Come in out of the cold to learn more of the mountain lion's mysteries at the 6:30 presentation and through hands-on displays. Youth and adult groups welcome.

### Nature Art: Leather Jewelry

January 8 • Thursday • 6-8 PM  
*Early registration begins December 16 (ages 16+)*  
Native Americans used every part of the animals they harvested, sometimes using the hide to make leather jewelry. Sign up for this program to try your hand at making animal and plant-related or Native American jewelry from leather. All supplies will be provided.

### Homeschool Special: Winter Birds

January 15 • Thursday • 10-11:30 AM or  
1-2:30 PM  
*Registration begins January 2 (ages 6+)*  
Missouri provides a temporary home to a variety of visiting songbirds during the winter months. Learn how to identify a few of these and make a bird feeder to attract them to your backyard. One bird feeder per family.

### Conservation Destination: Seventy-Six Conservation Area

January 17 • Saturday • 8 AM-2 PM  
*Registration begins January 2 (ages 10+)*  
Come with us as we hike along the bluffs and through the forest at Seventy-Six Conservation Area. We'll get a wonderful view of the river on our 3-mile hike. Hike difficulty is rated as moderate. Please pack a lunch, bring water, and dress for the weather. Youth aged 10 and older welcome with an adult.

### Tree Tapping

January 17 • Saturday • 10-11:30 AM  
*Registration begins January 2 (ages 7+)*  
Tis' the season for maple sugaring! Before you can enjoy sweet maple syrup, you've got to collect the sap. Learn how to identify Sugar maple trees and select the right ones to tap. Then go outside to try your hand at tapping the trees. This program covers only the tree tapping portion. Join us February 14 for our Maple Sugaring event to learn the rest of the syrup story. Dress for the weather.



*Conservation pays by enriching our  
economy and quality of life.*

### Native Plant Spa

January 24 • Saturday • 9:30-11 AM  
*Registration begins January 2 (ages 8+)*  
Beat those winter blues! We will be creating nature-inspired beauty products from native plants. Herbal teas will help us relax while we learn and have fun. You will leave feeling refreshed and take home your own spa creations.

### Nature and the Arts

January 24 • Saturday • 1-4 PM  
*No registration required (all ages)*  
Be "naturally" inspired by artists who love nature and have some interesting ways of incorporating it into their work. Listen to music, visit with artisans, and watch as these talented folks demonstrate their passion and display their crafts. Kids and adults will have the opportunity to make a nature craft to take home. Youth and adult groups welcome.

### Blood Drive

January 28 • Thursday • 2-6 PM  
*Registration begins December 1 online (ages 16+)*  
What better gift to give than the gift of life by donating blood. Ages 16 and up (16 year-olds must complete paperwork with parental consent prior to donating). Walk-ins will be accepted, but donors are encouraged to register for appointment times at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

### Discovery Table: Mountain Lions

January 31 • Saturday • 1-4 PM  
*No registration required (all ages)*  
Mountain lions are the largest feline predator to visit the state of Missouri. What is their range? What do they eat? Our displays will help you discover more about this elusive cat. Youth and adult groups welcome.

### Art Gallery-January

Take the opportunity this month to view "A Southeast Winter," a collection of outdoor photography by Michelle Randecker.

# Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center

2289 County Park Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/297](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/297)

## FEBRUARY

### TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 573-290-5218 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

### Eagle Days

February 7 • Saturday • 9 AM–4 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Winter is a great time to visit Mingo National Wildlife Refuge and Duck Creek Conservation Area for viewing of bald eagles. Spotting scopes with guides will be available to assist your outdoor viewing of eagles in the wild. Indoor programs will include live, captured eagles plus exhibits, activities, videos. Visitors can tour the new Visitor Center at Mingo National Wildlife Refuge.

### Feeding Frenzy

February 12 • Thursday • 1–2:30 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Ever wonder what it takes to keep all of the nature center reptiles, amphibians, and fish happy? Thanks to some amazing animal care volunteers, they are fed a delicious smorgasbord of crickets, worms, minnows, and more! Drop by to visit with the volunteers and staff as they feed the hungry critters. Youth and adult groups welcome.

*We help people discover nature.*

### Nature Center at Night: Slimy, Spotted Sallies

February 12 • Thursday • 5–8 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

In the late winter and early spring, on warm, rainy nights, certain types of Missouri's salamanders will be making their way to a pond to lay eggs. Stop by to learn more about these secretive amphibians. Youth and adult groups welcome.

### Nature Art: Winter Ice

February 12 • Thursday • 6–8 PM

*Registration begins February 3 (ages 16+)*

Just because it's cold outside doesn't mean we need to stay inside. We'll talk about staying safe in the cold and then make a scrapbook layout to show off the pictures you will be taking of nature's "bling".

### The Great Backyard Bird Count February 13-16

Count birds in your backyard, at a local park, or anywhere. Involve the family and participate anytime during the weekend. No cost and lots of fun! For details on participating, visit [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc).

### Maple Sugaring

February 14 • Saturday • 1–4 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Discover one of the forest's sweetest gifts. Maple sugaring is rich in history and still practiced today. Learn the history, equipment, and process of making maple syrup. Youth and adult groups welcome.

### Boisterous Bluebirds

February 17 • Tuesday • 5:30–6:30 PM

*No registration required (ages 6+)*

Bluebirds bring joy to nearly everyone who sees or hears them. Learn the bluebird basics in this program as we talk about feeding and housing these beautiful birds. Adult supervision required for ages 6–16.

### Build a Bluebird Bungalow

February 17 • Tuesday • 6:30–8:30 PM

*Registration begins February 3 (Ages 6+)*

Join us for our earlier program on bluebirds and then build a bluebird house to take home. Space is limited to eight family/friend groups. Adult supervision required for ages 6–16.



**Dark-eyed Junco**  
(*Junco hyemalis*)

You may have heard the name "Snowbirds" in reference to these small sparrow-sized birds. They are a winter resident in our state and are often seen pecking around in the snow looking for seeds. These gregarious birds spend a lot of time at bird feeders in the winter where they prefer millet and sunflower seeds. In the summer months Dark-eyed Juncos reside in the northern states and Canada, but as the seasons change, they move south heading as far as upper Mexico. Males are gray/slate and white, while females are browner, both have a pink beak. The outer tail feathers of these birds are white which distinguishes them from similarly sized birds.

### Art Gallery-February

Crystal Bailey's exhibit "Nature's Beauty" is a collection of photographs taken in conservation areas around Southeast Missouri. The purpose of her work is to showcase the beauty of our natural areas and to continue raising awareness for conservation.

### Discovery Table: Winter Tree ID

February 28 • Saturday • 1–4 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Have you ever seen the delicate, black silhouette of a tree against the clear winter sky and wondered what kind of tree it is? Well, stop by and learn to read the subtle clues that will enable you to identify any tree in winter. Youth and adult groups welcome.

## Coming in March

### Native Plant & Garden Seminar

March 14 • Saturday • 8 AM–3 PM

*Registration begins February 1 (ages 16+)*

The Missouri Department of Conservation and the Cape Girardeau County Master Gardeners host the tenth annual native plant seminar. Call the nature center about session times and guest speakers. Registration is free and seating is limited for each session.



**Eastern Red cedar**  
(*Juniperus virginiana*)

A familiar sight to every Missourian, these trees are found statewide. These trees are not cedars at all but junipers despite the common name. A conifer, this tree has needles instead of broad leaves, and cones instead of nuts or berries. The blue juniper "berry" seen on these trees is actually a modified cone, like those found on a pine tree. Look closely at the "berry" and you will see ridges that form the scales of the cone. These berries are a favorite food of many animals and often provide food during the hard winter months. Besides food, these trees also provide cover for animals of all sizes from tiny sparrows and rabbits to larger animals like deer. The fullness of their branches provides a windbreak, which allows the animals to stay warmer on cold days.

# Educators' Niche

## Discover Nature Schools

The Discover Nature Schools (DNS) program provides new and interesting curriculum that incorporates hands-on outdoor activities featuring Missouri ecosystems. Teaching students outside has been shown to help improve test scores and help with behavior issues. Each unit comes with excellent teacher and student guides. These materials are free to public, private, or homeschool educators. Grant monies are also available for field trips and supplies for K-12 teachers in the public or private school sectors.

A DNS training is being offered at the Cape Girardeau Nature Center on January 17 and on February 28 from 9am-4pm. Please contact Bridget Jackson for training information at [bridget.jackson@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:bridget.jackson@mdc.mo.gov) or call 573-290-5858 ext 4464.



## Nature Deficit Tidbit

Have you noticed your child having balance and/or spatial awareness issues? Angela Hanscom, a pediatric occupational therapist, noticed this in many of her patients. She also noticed they weren't playing outdoors anymore. Hanscom states that playing and moving outdoors is critical to a child's development. Catching frogs can help develop strong sensory integration. Climbing trees develops the vestibular system, which is crucial for balance. Listening to birds can help with orienting body space. Hanscom began a camp called Timbernook in her backyard. The activities offered by Timbernook all revolve around outdoor, nature activities. After just one week of attending the camp, the children showed signs of improvement. Many became more social, while others showed less anxiety.

If you have seen some of these issues in your children, please consider taking your child on outdoor adventures. There are many such opportunities offered at the Cape Girardeau Nature Center.

From *Outdoor Education: Children develop sensory integration skills*. Published July 20, 2014.

## What's HOT in the NATURE SHOP!

\*Conservation Heritage Card discounts do not apply

### December

#### Cooking Wild in Missouri

Whether you hunt, fish, or forage, Bernadette Dryden's collection of recipes offers imaginative, fresh ideas for turning your harvest into a mouth-watering feast. With an emphasis on local, seasonal ingredients and a scope encompassing a variety of cultures and cuisines, *Cooking Wild in Missouri* is sure to earn a trusted spot in your kitchen.



**Discounted price:**  
**\$12.00 plus tax**

#### Bluebird/Cardinal Notecards

A male eastern bluebird perches on a tree branch after an ice storm. Missouri's state bird favors rolling grassland with scattered trees and shrubs. Eastern bluebirds are common statewide except for the Mississippi Lowland. Cards are 4 1/2 by 6 inches. Set includes 12 cards and envelopes.



**Discounted price:**  
**\$6.40 plus tax**

The Nature Shop features a variety of nature-related books, videos/DVDs, and resources to increase awareness and knowledge of conservation and the outdoors.

**20% Off\***  
these monthly specials!

### January/February

#### A Key to Missouri Trees in Winter field guide

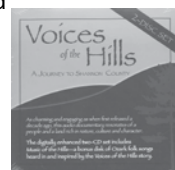
Learn to identify Missouri trees and shrubs by examining their twigs and buds. Clear illustrations and concise descriptions make this an easy-to-use guide. Distribution maps are provided for each of the 123 different species.



**Discounted price:**  
**\$2.40 plus tax**

#### Voices of the Hills Remix

As charming and engaging as it was when first released a decade ago, this audio documentary resonates of a people and land rich in nature, culture, and character. The digitally enhance two-CD set includes *Music of the Hills*--a new bonus disk of Ozark folk songs inspired by the *Voices of the Hills* story.



**Discounted price:**  
**\$7.20 plus tax**

## Nature Shop Sale December 9-13

**HOLIDAY SALE**

Last minute shopping got you flustered? Escape the hustle and bustle and relax while completing your gift list in the nature shop--and receive 20%\* off all nature shop items!

\*Conservation Heritage Card discounts do not apply.



# Volunteer Corner

## Meet our new Volunteer Coordinator, Jamie Koehler!

Please welcome Jamie Koehler as the new Assistant Nature Center Manager of the Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center. She will also serve as Volunteer Coordinator and Interpretive Programs Supervisor. Jamie's many years of experience in volunteer coordination, supervision and management, public relations/media, and training and development combined with her passion for conservation will be an asset to the nature center team.

Jamie has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Biology with a Master's Degree in Training & Development. Ms. Koehler comes to us from the American Red Cross where she served as the Disaster Program Manager.

For the past two years, Jamie has been a volunteer with the Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center where she has served as a naturescaper and provided several programs on native plants ranging from identification and cultivation to harvest and cooking. Jamie is also a member of the Cape County Master Gardeners and assisted with the Native Plant & Garden Seminar.



## Volunteer Milestones

**100 Hours**  
Felicia Fox  
Randy Windeknecht

**200 Hours**  
Roxane Magnus

**500 Hours**  
Jennifer Behnken  
Debbie Gregory

**750 Hours**  
Byron Foust  
Steve Shelton

**2000 Hours**  
Phil Dodson

**2500 Hours**  
Beverly Schiwitz  
Kenny Schiwitz

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, you're encouraged to attend the volunteer information reception Tuesday, December 9 at 6:30pm. You'll learn more about the program, its opportunities and requirements, hear from current volunteers about their involvement and experiences, and receive answers to your questions.

The Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center is currently taking applications for volunteers in the following four areas. Following acceptance into the program, new volunteers attend training classes and receive hands-on preparation according to their interests and involvement.

**Conservation Ambassador** – Welcome visitors; help people find information and register for programs; assist with nature shop sales and equipment loan.


**Conservation Naturalist** – Assist with and present programs for youth and adults; help create new activities and discovery stations for events; represent the nature center at off-site community programs.

**Animal Care Assistant** – Feed, clean and care for various native amphibians, reptiles and fish on a weekly or monthly basis; occasionally set up new displays for live animals.

**Naturescaping Team** – Manage the native garden beds including mulching, weeding, transplanting and collecting seed; assist with public inquiries regarding the flowers and plants they see.

For more information or to receive an application, please stop in or contact Jamie Koehler at 573-290-5218 or [Jamie.Koehler@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Jamie.Koehler@mdc.mo.gov).





Join the  
fun!

## Maple Sugaring

Saturday, February 14, 2015

1-4 pm

Learn the entire process of making maple syrup.  
From sap to a sweet treat!

# NATIVE PLANT & GARDEN SEMINAR

Saturday, March 14

8 am-3 pm

The Missouri Department of Conservation and the Cape Girardeau County Master Gardeners are partnering for the tenth annual seminar. Using native plants in your landscape benefits wildlife, adds variety and color to your landscape and is a great alternative to the traditional manicured lawn. Call for more information about event activities, guest speakers, and registration requirements. Seminar is free and registration begins February 1.



## Native Plant Sale



Purchasing native plants in southeast Missouri is not always easy. If you want to get started, a Missouri supplier will be on hand during the seminar so you can purchase native plants for your landscape. You can do so by stopping by the nature center anytime during the day or visit [www.grownative.org](http://www.grownative.org) to learn more about native species and suppliers.

